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Summary record of the 18th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 30 October 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Acharya ..... (Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 30: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/C.4/61/L.2/Rev.1 and L.3/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.2/Rev.1 on the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

1. **Mr. Chibaeff** (France), introducing the draft resolutions under agenda item 30, said, with regard to draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.2/Rev.1, that after consultations in the working group, it had been agreed that the clause "and should not result in an increase of the total regular budget of the United Nations" should be added at the end of paragraph 7.

2. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking under rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, reiterated that, in keeping with paragraph 162 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/61/20), the programme to be established under paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.2/Rev.1 should not result in an increase of the total regular budget of the United Nations.

3. It was understood that the programme would take into account the results of the study done by the ad hoc expert group established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/AC.105/873) and that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would also refer to that study in developing a workplan requested in paragraph 13. The 2007 activities outlined in paragraphs 14 to 16 would, it should be noted, be implemented by the Office with resources from voluntary contributions and a reorientation of the Office's support priorities, namely, four work-months by one P-4 staff member and the organization of a disaster-management workshop.

4. Should additional resources be required to meet the activities to be conducted under the detailed workplan, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would be informed at its fiftieth session of the estimated cost of such resources, and the associated resource requirements for implementation of the programme for the biennium 2008-2009 would be considered in accordance with established budgetary procedures.

5. Accordingly, adoption of draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.2/Rev.1 would not give rise to additional appropriations for the biennium 2006-2007.

6. Finally he drew attention to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, in which the Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and had reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.2/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.3/Rev.1 on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

8. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution would have no programme budget implications.

9. *Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.3/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.*

Agenda item 29: Effects of atomic radiation (*continued*) (A/61/46 and Corr.1; A/C.4/61/L.7)

10. **Mr. Alampadan** (India) said that the work of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation had immense implications for the health and well-being of thousands and for the environment and non-human biota. Cancer was the main concern among radiation-induced health effects, although — as also in the case of congenital malformations — other factors entered in. Moreover, as recent studies in India and China had indicated, it was possible that the estimations of risk following radiation exposure had been substantially inflated, especially with regard to the influence of low-dose radiation on the incidence of cancer.

11. The same could be said of the linear no-threshold concept of radiation dose response, which had been the cornerstone of all international regulation of radiation exposure limits for nuclear power plants and other nuclear installations. Numerous studies on low-dose radiation effects questioned the scientific accuracy of that accepted concept. The stringent requirements of the current regulatory regime imposed huge and unreasonable costs on the countries harnessing nuclear power to generate electricity; and given the

inevitability of nuclear energy as a viable economical and environmentally friendly option, such data needed to be carefully analysed.

12. Some uninformed agencies and individuals had used the Scientific Committee's estimates of risk coefficients and collective doses to which a population was exposed to predict the likely number of deaths following accidental radiation exposure, such an approach was scientifically incorrect and would result in overestimation and spread panic.

13. Medical radiation exposure was a major component of man-made exposures, and there was a need to collect reliable information on the various radio-diagnostic and therapeutic procedures used by different countries. India hoped that the Scientific Committee would present that information as a scientific annex to its next report. Two of the scientific annexes to the Committee's current report, to which India had contributed significantly, had for the first time made an epidemiological evaluation of cardiovascular disease and other non-cancer diseases following radiation exposure and had analysed the effects of ionizing radiation on the immune system. The report had also made a useful assessment of the effects of radon exposure, the risk of which could now be reliably estimated.

14. The United Nations Environment Programme must accord utmost priority to the highly scientific work being done by the Scientific Committee. For a number of years, it had suffered from a lack of adequate resources. India strongly supported a substantially increased budget for the 2008-2009 biennium, in accordance with the position taken by the General Assembly in all its recent resolutions on the effects of atomic radiation.

Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.7 on the effects of atomic radiation

15. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications and that Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Norway, Slovakia and the United States had joined the sponsors.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.7 was adopted without a vote.*

17. **Mr. Romeu** (Spain), speaking in explanation of position after the decision, said that it was of the utmost importance to consider the question of expanding the membership of the Scientific Committee. Considerable time had elapsed since that had last been done, and some countries — Spain among them — had made great scientific progress in the field in the interim. He announced that Spain hoped to join the Scientific Committee.

Agenda item 110: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

18. **The Chairman** drew attention to the draft provisional guideline: approximate dates for the consideration of items by the Special Political Committee (Fourth Committee) at the sixty-second session which had just been circulated. He said that it would be annexed to the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

Agenda item 28: University for Peace (A/61/285)

19. **Ms. Marton-Lefevre** (Rector, University for Peace) said that the University's five-year revitalization programme had been completed in 2005 and that external evaluations, led by three teams from Canada, Germany and Finland, had found the revitalization programme had been successful.

20. The University had launched a rigorous new academic programme, including eight master's degree programmes. Short courses had been created for those not pursuing master's degrees. The University for Peace system planned to focus efforts not only on education at the University's Costa Rica campus, but also on global education through partnership arrangements and joint programmes with universities all over the world. Links with the United Nations system were also being enhanced.

21. **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the University could be a useful tool in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and it should consider establishing satellite campuses in willing host countries. He wondered whether the University planned to cooperate with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Dialogue among Civilizations.

22. **Ms. Marton-Lefevre** (Rector, University for Peace) said that while the University for Peace system had no plans to establish new campuses, it was open to working with existing universities upon invitation. The University and the Peacebuilding Commission were discussing opportunities for training Peacebuilding

Commission staff and for employment of University alumni. The University was also in contact with the Dialogue among Civilizations.

23. **Mr. Adeyemi** (Nigeria) wondered whether the University limited its collaboration to universities. He noted that a number of national organizations were working on related issues and collaboration with them could be mutually beneficial.

24. **Ms. Marton-Lefevre** (Rector, University for Peace) said that while the University strove to respect its position as an academic institution, it did work with non-governmental organizations and other national organizations at the regional level.

Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.8: University for Peace

25. **Mr. Urbina** (Costa Rica) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/285), which outlined what had been done over the past five years to revitalize the University. The University had established programmes in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, and was working on establishing an international centre of the University in Canada, thereby demonstrating its commitment to global education. In order to continue its work the University would need increased political and financial support.

26. Introducing draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.8, which was an updated version of the one adopted the previous year, he said that Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Panama and the Russian Federation had become sponsors of the draft resolution. He called on the international community and individuals to continue to contribute to University programmes and budget, and to demonstrate support for peace education by acceding to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace. He hoped the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

27. **The Chairman** after informing the Committee that the draft resolution had no financial implications, said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt it.

28. *Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.8 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.